

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A modular cushioned insole support system intended for use in connection with footwear, the system comprising: a) a heel piece having an upper and lower surface and further defining within said upper surface a first interlocking means, and b) a forefoot piece selected from a plurality of forefoot pieces having different widths, thicknesses, and impact cushioning characteristics, and each having a dorsally disposed second interlocking means capable of being accommodated within said first interlocking means, the assembled system and its components having a medial and a lateral side relative to the anatomic orientation of the system. A modular cushioned insole support system for forming custom-fit insoles that can be inserted into a user's shoes, the system comprising:

a left-foot insole system for forming an insole for insertion into a left shoe of a user, the left-foot insole system comprising a plurality of left-foot forefoot pieces differing from one another in configuration and each configured for underlying and supporting the user's left forefoot, and a plurality of left-foot heel pieces differing from one another in configuration and each configured for underlying and supporting the user's left heel, each of the left-foot heel pieces having an upper surface defining a first interlocking means therein, and each of the left-foot forefoot pieces having a second interlocking means configured to interlockingly engage the first interlocking means in each of the left-foot heel pieces to secure the left-foot forefoot piece to the left-foot heel piece in a removable manner, whereby the user can connect any of the left-foot forefoot pieces to any of the left-foot heel pieces to form the insole for the left shoe; and

a right-foot insole system for forming an insole for insertion into a right shoe of a user, the right-foot insole system comprising a plurality of right-foot forefoot pieces differing from one another in configuration and each configured for underlying and supporting the user's right forefoot, and a plurality of right-foot heel pieces differing from one another in configuration and each configured for underlying and supporting the user's right heel, each of the right-foot heel pieces having an upper surface defining a first interlocking means therein, and each of the right-foot forefoot pieces having a second interlocking means configured to interlockingly engage the first interlocking means in each of the right-foot heel pieces to secure the right-foot forefoot

Appl. No.: 10/086,509
Amdt. dated December 22, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 16, 2003

piece to the right-foot heel piece in a removable manner, whereby the user can connect any of the right-foot forefoot pieces to any of the right-foot heel pieces to form the insole for the right shoe.

2. (Original) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 1 further provided with means for retaining said second interlocking means within said first interlocking means.

3. (Original) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 2 wherein said means for retaining is an adhesive.

4. (Original) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 2 wherein said means for retaining is a mechanical fastener.

5. (Currently Amended) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 2 wherein said first part of an interlocking means is a longitudinal channel.

6. (Original) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 2 wherein said second interlocking means is a tongue.

7. (Currently Amended) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 1, wherein each said left-foot and right-foot forefoot piece has a hardness of 25 to 50 shore C.

8. (Currently Amended) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 1, wherein each said left-foot and right-foot forefoot piece is provided with a cushioning means.

9. (Original) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 8, wherein said cushioning means is selected from the group consisting of gel sacs, air sacs, elastomeric material, spongiform material, and resilient cushioning material.

10. (Original) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 9, wherein said cushioning means is disposed such that it defines internal apertures that facilitate deformation in response to compressive forces and reformation when those forces are relieved.

11. (Currently Amended) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 8, wherein said cushioning means is ~~further capable of~~ operable for initiating an exothermic chemical reaction.

12. (Currently Amended) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 1, wherein said ~~heel piece is selected from a plurality of~~ left-foot heel pieces ~~each having a~~ have different widths, and said right-foot heel pieces have different widths.

13. (Currently Amended) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 1, wherein said ~~heel piece is selected from a plurality of~~ heel pieces each having a different torsional geometry ~~left-foot and right-foot heel pieces include~~ heel pieces configured for neutral support of each of the user's feet, heel pieces for anti-pronation support of each of the user's feet, and heel pieces for anti-supination support of each of the user's feet.

14. (Currently Amended) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 1, wherein each said left-foot and right-foot heel piece has a hardness of 50 to 75 shore C.

15. (Currently Amended) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim [[1]] 6, wherein each said left-foot and right-foot heel piece defines within said channel a centrally disposed aperture capable of accommodating a corresponding protuberance in said tongue, such that in use said protuberance is disposed within said aperture.

16. (Currently Amended) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 1, wherein said system further comprises a left-foot heel cup and a right-foot heel cup, each heel cup being formed separately from said left-foot and right-foot heel pieces and being configured to be disposed along said lower surface of said respective left-foot or right-foot heel piece such that

said heel piece is partially supported by said heel cup.

17. (Currently Amended) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 16, wherein each said heel cup is disposed along said a lateral side of said respective heel piece.

18. (Currently Amended) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 16, wherein each said heel cup is disposed along said a medial side of said respective heel piece.

19. (Currently Amended) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 1, wherein each said left-foot and right-foot forefoot piece has a perimeter and a centrally disposed foot accommodation means with a transition zone therebetween.

20. (Original) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 19, wherein said transition zone between is relatively abrupt.

21. (Currently Amended) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 19, wherein each said left-foot and right-foot forefoot piece has a first thickness disposed about said foot accommodation means transitioning to a second thickness in the region of said foot accommodation means.

22. (Original) The modular cushioned insole support system of claim 21, wherein said transition between said first thickness and said second thickness is tapered such that a foot may be cradled within said foot accommodation means.

23. (Canceled)